

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 04984 241453Z
ACTION SS-25

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P 241227Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
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S E C R E T TEHRAN 4984

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MNUC, TECH, IR, PK, US
SUBJ: DISCUSSION OF PAKISTANI REPROCESSING PLANT WITH SHAH

REF: (A) STATE 123149, (B) STATE 130875

1. IN ACCORDANCE INSTRUCTIONS REFTELS, I HAD AUDIENCE WITH SHAH MORNING MAY 24 TO DISCUSS PAKISTAN REPROCESSING PLANT AND TO ASK IRANIAN ASSISTANCE IN RESOLVING PROBLEMS POSED BY FRENCH CONTRACT FOR ITS CONSTRUCTION. SHAH REMINDED ME THAT HE HAD ALREADY RAISED ISSUE TWICE WITH FRENCH AND SEVERAL TIMES WITH PAKISTANIS.

2. AFTER DISCUSSING THE ISSUE IN THE LIGHT OF RECENT EVENTS IN AFGHANISTAN, SHAH AGREED TO UNDERTAKE TWO COURSES OF ACTION:

(A) HE WILL WRITE LETTER TO GISCARD D'ESTAING;
(B) HE WILL DISCUSS IDEA OF NUCLEAR-FREE ZONE WITH INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, WHO WILL VISIT TEHRAN MAY 27.

3. HIS LETTER TO GISCARD WILL MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS:

(A) EVENTS IN AFGHANISTAN HAVE EXPOSED PAKISTAN TO
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DANGER OF SOVIET - INSPIRED AGITATION.
(B) BECAUSE OF ECONOMIC AND MILITARY DEFICIENCIES, PAKISTAN IS BULNERABLE TO SUCH ACTIVITY.
(C) SHAH HAS IMPRESSION AMERICANS WISH TO BE HELPFUL IN ASSISTING PAKISTAN.

(D) HOWEVER, U.S. LEGISLATION PROHIBITS SUCH AID IF PAKISTAN

PURSUES ITS INSISTENCE ON REPROCESSING PLANT.

(E) BECAUSE OF IRAN'S INTEREST IN INTEGRITY AND SECURITY OF PAKISTAN, SHAH WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING WHAT GISCARD FEELS HE CAN DO TO ELIMINATE REPROCESSING PLANT FROM THIS EQUATION.

4. SHAH WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE FELT GISCARD WAS PREPARED TO CANCEL THE CONTRACT EVEN AT SOME COST TO FRANCE. I SAID WE REALIZED IT MIGHT COST FRANCE COMMERCIALY AND WISHED AVOID IMPRESSION WE WERE ASKING IRAN TO "GANG UP" ON FRANCE. IN FACT, WE INTENDED TO TELL FRENCH WE HAD DISCUSSED MATTER WITH SHAH.

5. AS FOR INDIA, SHAH SAID HE WAS PREPARED EXPLORE WITH VAJPAYEE WAYS IN WHICH A STATEMENT ON NUCLEAR-FREE ZONES COULD BE MADE MORE EFFECTIVE FOR PURPOSES OF PAKISTAN. HE SAID IRAN WOULD BE PREPARED TO JOIN IN SUCH A DECLARATION IF ONE COULD BE WORKED OUT.
SULLIVAN

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